THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In some cities, depending upon traffic requirements, City Booking Agents are appointed on contract basis for sale of passenger tickets. the contracts are awarded to the most suitable candidate on merits by calling for competitive tenders through press advertisements.

Mass rapid transit system in Madras

2229. SHRI S.K.T. RAMA-CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the status of the project 'Mass Rapid Transit System' under execution in Madras ;

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed ;

(c) what was the yearwise allotment made for the project during the last three years and what is the allotment made for the current year and what is the cumulative expenditure so far incurred ; and

(d) what is the estimate of further requirements to complete the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Madras Beach-Park Town section of the project has been completed and opened for traffic. Work on the balance length is likely to be completed by 1995, subject to availability of funds.

(c) (i)1989-90—Rs. 9.85 crores
1990-91—Rs. 11.10 crores
1991-92 Rs. 16.00 crores

(ii) 1992-93—Rs. 14.00 crores

(iii) Expenditure upto 31-3-92 is Rs. 69.15 crores.

(d) Further requirement of funds to complete the project would be known only after the revised estimate of the project is prepared.

Report of Comptroller and Auditor General for Western and Central Zone Railways

2230. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHADDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General, in his report for 1990-91, had indicted the Western and Central Zone Railways amongst other things, for disposing of scrap at prices much below the prevailing market prices ;

(b) if so, how far below the market rates the scrap of different types was sold, and what was the loss involved in the whole transaction ; and

(c) what steps have since been taken to prevent such practices in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Following measures already exist :

(i) Sale of scrap is conducted through public auctions or through open tender to the highest bidder.

(ii) Senior officers from Headquarter monitor rates realised in auctions in the nearby locations as also market trend of scrap rates etc.

(iii) Prior to auction, reserve price of various categories of scrap that are put up for auction is fixed keeping in view the recent auction prices and other information like